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WEEKLY NOTES.

IF it was Mr. CONKLING's ambition to be much upon the lips of his countrymen, he has attained it this week. His resignation of the New York Senatorship, accompanied by a similar step on the part of his associate and follower, Senator PLATT, was certainly an original move in our politics. We know of nothing just like it in our history, and can find a parallel only in a British minister dissolving Parliament and going back to the country, when either the Commons or the Lords resist his policy. But there is this difference:—that the English proceeding is a thoroughly sensible and business-like method of having your way, while Mr. CONKLING's explosive resignation serves no purpose, good or bad, except to emphasize the degree to which he has lost his temper. It may well be that Mr. CONKLING finds favor with the Republican politicians who meet at Albany to pass laws for the State and elect United States Senators. But there is a doubt in all men's minds whether the Legislature of the State really represents the feelings of the people in this matter. To test that, Mr. CONKLING and Mr. PLATT should have sent in their resignations on the eve of a Legislative election. There would have been some opportunity in that case of bringing his issue with the President before the popular tribunal. But to resign when the resignation sends him back for re-election to the body which obeyed his orders in their selection of Mr. PLATT as his colleague, is a cheap piece of bravado. And yet, if we mistake not, Mr. CONKLING may find even the Albany Legislature less manageable than it was a few months back. First of all, there has been the infectious example of independence at Harrisburg. New Yorkers do not like to be told that they are less proprietors of their own souls than Pennsylvanians are. Then, there is the decided unpopularity of Mr. CONKLING's course throughout the State, as reflected in the utterances of all but a few of the Republican newspapers. The Legislature know that they are asked to re-elect Mr. CONKLING as a vote of censure upon Mr. GARFIELD; and they know also that the censure of the Republicans of that State falls on Mr. CONKLING, and not on Mr. GARFIELD. Their votes will be the indication whether they most fear their constituents or their Senator. As in August last, in words which our President then used, the Republicans of the Empire State show themselves as ready to fall into line behind JAMES GARFIELD as behind ROSCOE CONKLING. Lastly, there is the unconcealed ambition of Mr. CORNELL to pass from the chair of the Governor,—which, we confess, he has filled excellently well,—to a seat in the national Senate. The chances that Mr. CONKLING may be returned to the Senate, are somewhat remote; and it is still more likely that Mr. PLATT may find that he has been too compliant in his resignation.

THE *Herald* of New York has been giving Mr. CONKLING its active co-operation in his war on the President's dignity and authority. It has published a long communication, rehearsing the relations of Mr. GARFIELD with Mr. CONKLING during the Presidential campaign. Some persons have jumped to the conclusion that Mr. CONKLING was the writer of the communication. This we do not believe. It is just such a story of the matter as might be written by a newspaper man who had learned some of the facts and felt free to imagine the rest. The utmost of Mr. CONKLING's connection with

the letter can have been that he furnished some of the materials, while the author of the whole supplied the missing parts of the story from a source far less trustworthy. On one point especially we wish to be emphatic. Neither in New York nor in Mentor did Mr. GARFIELD give pledges to Mr. CONKLING or to anyone; and as regards his Cabinet, so far from offering the Cabinet to Mr. MORTON during his August visit to New York, he had not offered any place to anyone but Mr. BLAINE a month before his inauguration.

This *Herald* letter has called forth a very different version of the history of the campaign, and of Mr. GARFIELD's nomination, from a Philadelphia source. This contains many facts not published heretofore, but it is inaccurate in several important points. It is especially unjust to Mr. GARFIELD, in so far as it represents him as consenting to the movement which resulted in his nomination, and as going to Chicago, professedly in the interest of Mr. SHERMAN, to promote that movement. Mr. GARFIELD's opposition to his own nomination, when Mr. Sherman's dispatch reached the Convention, was sincere, and was in keeping with all that he had said and done previously. While pleased, of course, by the preference shown for him by those who had put him forward, regarding it as a good omen for some future and happier opportunity, he had no faith in it. He did not believe he could be nominated. He did not want to leave his place in the Senate before he had taken it. And he did nothing to promote his nomination.

THE aspirations of Pennsylvanians in this connection are that Mr. CONKLING's resignation should prove an infectious matter, and should reach Mr. DONALD CAMERON. In Mr. CAMERON's case, we have got so far that no appeal to the people would be necessary. No present or future Legislature of Pennsylvania could be induced to send him back to the United States Senate.

We must confess that we have been puzzled by some of Mr. CAMERON's recent transactions in the Senate. Why, for instance, should he object to the nomination of Mr. CHANDLER, now before the Senate? Why should he, like Mr. CONKLING, have busied himself in securing votes for the defeat of that nomination, and in promoting plans of compromise which would result in transferring Mr. CHANDLER to some other field of public service than that for which the President has selected him? Mr. CHANDLER is as Stalwart as Mr. CAMERON in his Republicanism. He is a man for whom the Senator from Pennsylvania might be expected to feel a warm sympathy. He is not one of those uncertain Independents who are said to have to make up their minds, before each election, as to which party they belong to. Mr. CAMERON sets a bad example in the matter of "harmony," by selecting Mr. CHANDLER as the target of his opposition. It is Stalwart devouring Stalwart. For us to regret Mr. CHANDLER's nomination, and to oppose his confirmation, is but natural. But we fail to discover Mr. CAMERON's motive in thus co-operating with us. It surely cannot be from any regard for Mr. MACVEAGH, who is known to dislike the nomination of Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. CAMERON opposed Mr. MACVEAGH's nomination to the Attorneyship-General. He saw his brother-in-law elevated to that post by the efforts of the Independents of Pennsylvania, and by virtue of their claim to recognition at the hands of the in-coming

President. And unless something very important, and as yet unexplained, has happened, we should expect to find Mr. MACVEAGH's hostility to Mr. CHANDLER causing Mr. CAMERON to support that nomination with all his power.

OF the three great nominations on which contest was expected, the most important was that of Mr. STANLEY MATTHEWS to the Supreme Bench. It will matter little a hundred years hence who became Collector of New York or Solicitor-General in this year of grace. It may matter a good deal who was chosen to the post of the official expounder of the Constitution of the United States. A single judge on the Supreme Bench may, by his vote, give a new shape to our national history. And to this responsible position Mr. MATTHEWS has been elevated by a majority of one vote in a Senate which had hardly a quorum. That so many Senators voted against him, was not due to any partisan or sectional feeling. It was from the conviction that he was not a proper man for such a position,—that his sympathies lay avowedly with the most dangerous and corrupting of all our dangerous classes, the railroad monopolists,—and that in the matter of the Louisiana witness,—Mr. JAMES ANDERSON,—he had shown not only a deficiency in good judgment, but a signal want of that fine sense of honor which should characterize every gentleman who takes his seat on the judicial bench. These objections have proved sufficient to alienate from Mr. MATTHEWS the support of the strongest Senators of his own party, and to throw him for his support upon the Democratic Senators of less weight. And in the face of these objections he is chosen judge by a majority which a change of a single vote might have turned into a minority. A more sensitive person would have taken such a confirmation as amounting to a rejection. He would have said that the country should see on its Supreme Bench only those in whom the widest confidence was felt, and that he would wait at least until he had lived down the force of the charges brought against him. But Mr. MATTHEWS is ambitious and is not sensitive.

THAT Mr. ROBERTSON's nomination would be confirmed, was conceded by the most strenuous worshippers of the idol called "Senatorial Courtesy." But no one expected that it would receive a substantially unanimous vote at the last, and that only four Senators, including Mr. CAMERON of Pennsylvania, would vote in the negative without even asking to be put on the record. The champions of "Senatorial Courtesy" have been badly hurt. They thought that they had made a point against the President by quoting a letter of General WASHINGTON's, in which he explains the reason of his having nominated a gentleman who had been defeated because of the opposition of both the Senators from his own State. They fail to show that General WASHINGTON approved of the Senators' act, and they forget that in those days such a rejection was a sort of personal stigma on the nominee. Hence WASHINGTON's anxiety to relieve the candidate of this reproach, by showing that he was an excellent gentleman who had received public expressions of the confidence of his fellow-citizens. The letter was addressed to the Senate out of courtesy, but was meant for the public eye. But since the Senate has adopted the practice of rejecting nominations for bad reasons, or for no reason, a rejection offers no stigma, unless, as in the case of Mr. MATTHEWS, the opposition has both good and public reasons for resisting a confirmation.

It is due to the opponents of this nomination to say that they were not confined to those who insisted that Mr. ROBERTSON should not be confirmed because Mr. CONKLING and Mr. PLATT do not like him. Some charged that he had no qualifications for the place, and that Mr. GARFIELD showed an imperfect sense of the fiduciary character of his office in making such a selection. The truth in this seemed to be that Mr. ROBERTSON never had been a Collector of

the Port, and that no one knew how he will turn out when invested with that office. That he had been a failure in other positions, or had evinced specifically any want of capacity, we do not find charged. As this kind of criticism came most commonly from those who were most aggrieved by his conduct in breaking down the Unit Rule last June, we believe that they were looking at Judge ROBERTSON through a reversed telescope, so as to find out how small he may be made to look.

It was also urged that the principles of Civil Service Reform forbade such a selection. We do not understand anyone to propose that the Collector shall be selected by a competitive examination, but only that Mr. MERRITT should have been left in possession of the Collectorship until at least the expiration of his commission. With this feeling we sympathize. And yet Mr. MERRITT was put into that post in such a manner and under such circumstances as rendered his retention in it an offence to the second officer of the National Government. It is impossible altogether to exclude personal considerations in making such appointments; and the removal of Mr. MERRITT was an act of courtesy due to Vice-President ARTHUR. The latter was removed from the Collectorship under circumstances which were personally offensive. The manner of the removal was such that not all the explanations offered by President HAYES and his Cabinet could prevent its effective use by the Democrats, when Mr. ARTHUR was put forward as the Republican candidate for the Vice-Presidency. To have accepted the situation in New York as created by Mr. HAYES and Mr. SCHURZ, would have been to stigmatize Mr. GARFIELD's associate on the national ticket, and his possible successor in the Presidency. We should certainly favor the retention of the Collector for life or good behavior. We think Mr. MERRITT's case exceptional.

THE Senate has ratified the treaties with China, which some of the newspapers describe as a final disposition of the Chinese question. Instead of being that, these treaties merely clear the way for a new agitation. They give the anti-Chinese party a chance to begin their campaign under better auspices, and with no possibility that they shall be met, as formerly, with the accusation that they favor a breach of the public faith. The clauses which seem to balance the right to limit and suspend immigration by a pledge for the protection of Chinese residents, amount to nothing, because the United States has no power to give the Chinese any such protection. A Government which cannot defend its own citizens in the exercise of their duties as citizens, will effect but little for the security of the life and limb of these aliens in localities where popular feeling is strongly hostile.

THE friends of Mr. HAYES must feel some humiliation in observing the present conduct of the gentleman who occupied the place of Postmaster-General in the recent Administration. The disclosures as to the Star Routes, and Mr. BRADY's connection with them, are not construed by anyone, so far as we know, as reflecting on Mr. KEY's personal integrity. But the facts brought to light show that Mr. KEY was exceedingly remiss in his duty to the country, especially after charges of dishonesty in this matter had been made by respectable newspapers of both parties. In this position of affairs, he has seen fit to take up the offensive position that Mr. BRADY is a persecuted man of probity, an excellent official, and all the rest of it. Gen. BRADY must feel very grateful for this kind act, for he is woefully wanting in defenders. He fully expected that those localities which had received increased postal facilities through his manipulation of the Star Routes, would rush to his defence. In a very few instances they have done so. But in far more numerous instances they are hastening to wash their hands of the disgraceful business, and to urge the prosecution of those who were concerned in it. In some cases they have shown that the Department had been swindled without their securing any

advantage. In places to which the mail could be taken cheaply and promptly by rail, the old routes by water were still maintained, in order that the Ring contractors might profit by their maintenance.

A contemporary corrects our statement, made on what we thought good authority, that the Post-Office has not paid its way since 1828. It says that in eight years since that date, the last being 1865, the revenues have exceeded the expenses, and that in 1852 the surplus was nearly a million and a half. Mr. JAMES, we observe, has already reduced expenses by cutting off Star Routes to the extent of \$400,000, and it is hoped that in this way he will cover the whole deficit of three and a half millions. It is said that he is one of the four aspirants for Presidential honors in the Cabinet. He certainly has kept his name before the public in a very favorable light during the opening months of this Administration.

A COMMENT on our monetary position is furnished by the estimate of the Mint authorities that we have added \$234,000,000 to our stock of gold in less than two years. The estimates they have published have not always been trustworthy. Those furnished by the late Dr. LINDERMAN did harm by their over-estimate of our silver resources in Nevada. But in the present instance there can be no over-estimate, as the materials for such a calculation are accessible. And the figures show that we have no need to go begging to England and Germany for the remonetization of silver. It will, of course, be of advantage to us to have that change effected; but we can wait until other nations' necessities coincide with our own convenience.

Another fact of national importance is the fact that emigration will add half a million people to our population this year. In Germany, statesmen look upon this exodus to America with just alarm, while they increase the burdens of military service and taxation which make it so general. In Great Britain, the theory that emigration is a sort of cure-all for social evils, first came into currency with Carlyle's "Chartism," and now is widely accepted. Even in Ireland, a country rather under than over populated, it is held up to the people as the truest and most natural escape from national misery. Some of our newspapers are very urgent to have these immigrants press Westward, instead of staying in New York and other seaports. But many of them have not the means to get any farther than their landing-place, and they soon discover that a great city furnishes about the best stopping-place for persons who, having no capital of their own, have to depend upon that of others for employment and support. New York has for many of them especial attractions, as the only American community governed and controlled by foreigners. It is there they find the least violent transition from the conditions of European life.

THERE is in some quarters an outcry for the removal of Democratic postmasters in Virginia, on the ground that they have been grossly remiss in their duty to the public, and have suppressed important political documents entrusted to them for transmission. Such charges as these should be received with great caution at the present time, as, indeed, they might be expected in the present situation of affairs. There is a great demand for places for Mr. MAHONEY's friends, and, as it would not do to ask for the removal of Republicans to make room for them, the Bourbon Democrats (meaning those who believe in paying the State's debts to the utmost of its capacity,) are discovered to be a class quite unworthy of public confidence, and guilty of offences of a sort to which no Readjuster ever would stoop. It is simple justice to insist that such charges shall be specific. It is neither safe nor just to assume, on the strength of these sweeping statements, that the Democratic postmasters of Virginia are worse than other men; and their removal from office, where they are honest and faithful men, can only tend to deepen that sectional bitterness which our statesmen profess to deprecate.

THE Democratic leaders of South Carolina seem to be addressing themselves to the serious problems presented by their political situation. They are awake to the fact that the system of fraud and force by which the supremacy of their party has been secured, cannot continue without inflicting on the body politic and social evils too serious to be endured. They still think that the end in view,—the liberation of the State from the rule of the freedmen,—was a good one and one which must not be lost sight of; but they would like to attain it with less sacrifice of the public conscience. Their weakness is that they have not such an abhorrence of the evils of violence and fraud in elections as to make up their minds to abandon them at all hazards. They have got no farther than to look around for some plan by which they can exclude the negroes from a real share in the suffrage without dirtying their own hands. To men in such a state of mind, we can promise no deliverance. Their virtuous impulses should be more energetic and enthusiastic, if they are to succeed in their aims. They lack faith in the power of virtue and intelligence, or they would cut loose from their false moorings and trust themselves and their State to "the Powers and the Destinies," as Carlyle calls them.

We think the people of South Carolina deserve sympathy as well as reprehension. Universal suffrage implies some degree of universal intelligence. In that and other of the Southern States it has been introduced without this pre-requisite to its proper use. The ignorant voters of the State, white and black, far outnumber the intelligent; and while the former species of illiterate persons are accustomed to follow the lead of educated white men, the latter are in open revolt from that lead. In no part of the country can the colored voter be depended upon when it is a question of pure and economic government. And in South Carolina they helped to give the State the most worthless Government that ever controlled an American State. To reconcile "a free vote and a fair count" with an honest administration of the State, is a serious problem, which will not be solved in a day, and will never be solved by men who deplore the use of tissue ballots and rifle clubs, but who mean to persist in it if they find it necessary.

THE New York Legislature has passed two sensible laws which are worthy of imitation in other States. One of these follows the example set by Massachusetts, in releasing shipping property from both State and municipal taxation. It is a matter of surprise that this measure has been delayed so long. English shipping pays taxes only upon the net income derived from its use, and in unprofitable years it is thus released from burdens of every kind. American ship-owners pay upon the assessed value of their property of this as of other sorts. The new law will put them upon a footing even more favorable than that of England, and it is hoped that it will do something to promote investments in this kind of property. And now that we have decided to exempt our ships from these contributions to the support of our own Government, it is high time surely that we should insist on their exemption from paying contributions to foreign Governments. The light-house system of the United States is one of the most complete and also one of the most expensive in the world. It is maintained at national cost, and no foreign ship, on entering our harbors, has to pay light-house dues. But American ships have to pay them as often as they enter the harbors of Great Britain. It would be very easy to put an end to this system by imposing such dues on all foreign vessels trading with America, and at the same time investing in the President the power to remit these charges on the vessels of any nation as soon as he is satisfied that that nation has ceased to levy them on American ships. As the matter now stands, the American people are taxed indirectly for the maintenance of British light-houses.

THE other law is one to compel storekeepers to provide seats for their employes. It is well known that constant standing causes a strain on physical endurance which women especially are unable to endure, and that it frequently results in the development of painful and incurable diseases. Yet, for the sake of making their work-people seem lively and attentive, many storekeepers require them to remain standing during the whole of business hours. Ineffectual attempts have been made to reform this evil by private effort, and it is feared that even a State law will prove ineffectual for the purpose. Yet the unanimous passage of the law by both branches of the Legislature may have the moral effect of awakening some consciences and of arousing public attention to the cruelties of the ordinary system.

THE nomination of Mr. LUCIUS P. THOMPSON for Surveyor of the Port of Philadelphia, is another proof that the country made no mistake in choosing Mr. GARFIELD for its President. Mr. THOMPSON is in no sense a Machine Republican, nor has he any sympathy with that class of party men who have done so much within the past year to degrade Republicanism and disgrace Pennsylvania. Mr. THOMPSON has a record that is unblemished, and his nomination is gratifying, because it is a clean, clear-cut victory for the Independent party in Pennsylvania, and an emphasis on all that is decent and desirable in the administration of public trusts.

THE event of the week in Europe has been the disclosure of the real terms of the French treaty with Tunis, and of the manner in which it was exacted. At first the matter was stated as though the treaty covered no more than material guarantees for the peace and order of the Kroumir district. But a fuller account showed that France had wrested from the Bey an acknowledgment of her suzerainty in place of that of Turkey, and that the guarantees extended to the whole country, instead of being confined to the Kroumir district. The French Government have played a very clever game in their treatment of Tunis. Both Italy and England have been deceived until the occupation was too complete for effective protest; and the Bey's palace was surrounded, and its occupant trepanned or bullied into the largest concessions, before any power could come to his aid. And all this with the consent and tacit support of that great friend of France, Prince BISMARCK. We believe, however, that French cleverness has overreached itself, and that M. GREVY has played Prince BISMARCK's game instead of his own. For the sake of a wretched African province, France has forfeited the good will of the only neighbors who could be of any use to her. For the sake of stealing Tunis, she has postponed still further her chance of regaining Alsace and Lorraine.

THE French Tariff gives great dissatisfaction in England, tending to embitter the relations of the two countries. France's chief manufactures are those of textile fabrics, and on these the duties have been greatly advanced, while, for the same reason, the duties on metals and machinery are left much as they were. And, worst of all, the duties are not to be reduced by any commercial treaty to less than three-fourths of the amounts specified in the general tariff. It is just the textile fabrics of England which are in the greatest need of Free Trade with France, and this the French refuse to grant. In fine, the French Republic has arrayed itself alongside of Germany, Sweden, Russia, Spain and the United States, as a country which does not mean to surrender its industries to the hazard of unlimited competition from abroad; and the work of 1860 is undone. American Protectionists, believing that this is the best for France, and, in the long run, an advantage to the whole world, are rejoiced at the decision reached by the great European republic.

THE Tory opposition to Mr. GLADSTONE's Irish Land Bill has taken definite shape in two demands. The first is that Irish landlords shall be compensated for the losses which, as they allege, the new law will inflict on them. The second is that the Government shall be compelled to purchase any Irish estate whose owner offers it to them at a fair valuation. The first of these amendments is out of the question. The bill has been made a wonderfully complicated adjustment of rival interests, with a view to inflicting no wrong upon the landlords, while giving the tenant proper security against the confiscation of his labor through rise of rent or eviction. To concede that the landlords are wronged, would be to abandon the very principle of the measure. Before conceding that, the Ministry probably would withdraw the measure, and bring in another to establish simply the three F's, or even copyhold tenure, with clauses giving the landlord proper compensation. The second amendment is more sensible, and if it were accompanied by another giving reciprocal rights to the tenants, it would probably meet with the support of all classes of Irish tenants. As it is, no class of those tenants is pleased with the measure. The censures of the Land League orators are the more sweeping; but a convention of friends of Ulster tenant right, held in Belfast, were equally distinct and emphatic in their adverse criticism of the bill. Mr. FORSTER has declared against the acceptance of any amendment to it, and is supposed to express the purpose of the Ministry. By this he has given signal help to Mr. PARNELL, by rallying the more moderate members of the Home Rule party to his support. Up to the time of Mr. FORSTER's speech, there was a serious division in the party, but this seems to have yielded to more moderate counsels on both sides.

MOSCOW has advanced in force upon St. Petersburg, and is now in possession. The Slavic party, whose headquarters have been in the older capital, are now in possession of the powers of the Government. This is due, first of all, to the influence of POBODONOFF, the present Czar's tutor. It was at the urgent request of the heir-apparent that this gentleman was called a few years ago from his quiet professorship at Kief. The elevation of his pupil to the throne has made him the most important subject in the Empire, and his sympathies with the Moscow party have given direction to the policy of ALEXANDER III. The English, German and other foreign officials of the great bureaucracy, will be dismissed. Even General LORIS MELIKOFF, as he is an Armenian, has ceased to fill the post in which he did so much for the restoration of public order. And everywhere these vacated places will be filled by men of pure Russian descent. After two centuries of intellectual and official dependence on Europe, Russia undertakes to govern herself. We think the new Czar is right in the main, but that he will err in his autocratic haste to carry out an idea. As Lord SHAFTESBURY said of DISRAELI's Reform Bill, there is no need to jump out of the window if you want to go from the second story to the street.

MR. CONKLING'S LAST MOVE.

THE Senator from New York is not a man who can put up with a defeat. He has too high an estimate of his own importance to understand that life must be, for him as for others, a medley of successes and rebuffs. He has, therefore, the weakness to let his temper get the better of him when a rebuff comes his way. All kinds of weaknesses, Dr. Thomas Arnold says, are rooted in self-conceit. This is eminently true of Mr. CONKLING's weaknesses. He is a man of some first-rate gifts, and with a considerable power of attaching his friends to himself. But his self-conceit has made him choose the rôle of a boss rather than the self-denying career of a statesman. And his self-conceit has led him into the blunders which have at last ruined his career as a boss.

Mr. CONKLING has again taken one of his fits of unconsolable pettishness, and has laid before the public his reasons for resigning his seat in the United States Senate. His *fidus Achates*, Mr. THOMAS M. PLATT, having united with him in this step, the worst represented of our Commonwealths is left with no representation in the Senate at all. His party in the Senate, after urging for weeks their right to elect the Senate officers because they have the casting vote of the Vice-President, are placed, by his act, in the embarrassing situation of having to obstruct the very same act on the part of the Democrats, who are now in the majority. And those of them who have sacrificed their claims to a hearing with the President by their defence of Mr. CONKLING, now find themselves deserted by the men for whom they gave up so much.

The general impression of the act on the American people is summed up in the one word "childish." Even his friends feel that he has done what is neither business-like nor manly. And the impression is deepened by a perusal of his manifesto, which has been read more carefully than any other paper of its length since the President's inaugural. It is exactly like the account of a play-ground difficulty told by a petted and aggrieved child. As every father knows, the child will see no side of the case but his own. His story may not contain falsehoods, but it will abound in suppressions of important facts. The child has not yet attained a manly sense of his responsibility fairly to tell both sides of the story. He has not even the man's self-control necessary to see both sides of it.

In this public letter, Mr. CONKLING is the ill-used darling who cannot get the other boys to play fair with him. He hasn't said anything bad of Mr. GARFIELD,—not he. He did not abuse him before the "Committee of Safety" and the Republican Caucus. He has never heard anything of the claim that the adverse vote of two Senators shall suffice for the rejection of a President's nomination. He did not help to pass a caucus rule classifying such appointments as Mr. ROBERTSON's as the last to be taken up. He knows, therefore, of no reason for the withdrawal of the other New York appointments, except that Mr. GARFIELD hates him. And so the one-sided tale runs on, and the reader imagines the chorus of angry sobs, with wet knuckles stuck into red eyes.

On two points Mr. CONKLING would be amusing, if he were not so sadly in earnest. He has the small boy's forgetfulness of all that is implied in the word *consistency*. He does not know why Mr. GARFIELD wants to remove so good a Collector as General MERRITT, and to put in his place Judge ROBERTSON, who has no experience and no special qualifications to fit him for its duties. So tenderly does he speak of Mr. MERRITT, that some unwary readers have taken for granted that the present Collector is Mr. CONKLING's man. Those who have not watched the course of events, might really infer this from the tenor of the letter. They do not know that Mr. CONKLING opposed Mr. MERRITT's appointment in a manner ten times more bitter than would correspond to his own description of his opposition to Mr. ROBERTSON; that his quarrel with Mr. HAYES culminated with this nomination; and that from that time forth he had no communication with the White House. It was the CONKLING newspapers which announced, just after Mr. GARFIELD's election, that General MERRITT must go, and kept harping upon that string up to the day of Mr. ROBERTSON's nomination. And now Mr. CONKLING loves General MERRITT like a brother.

But it is in his discussion of the principles which should govern appointments that Mr. CONKLING rises to sublimity:—"If it can be supposed that all these public trusts are to be, or would, in any event, be made personal perquisites, to be handled and disposed of . . . to liquidate the personal obligations of any individual, however high in station, the conditions are utterly vicious and degrading," and so forth. It was not Mr. DORMAN B. EATON or Mr. GEORGE W. CURTIS that wrote that sentence, but a gentleman who

has throughout his whole career treated every appointment within his reach as "personal perquisites to be disposed of to liquidate the personal obligations" of ROSCOE CONKLING, and who has quarrelled with Mr. GARFIELD because the President refused to let him treat the Collectorship as a personal perquisite for a similar purpose. Some of our contemporaries rejoice that the New York Senator has gone over to the Civil Service Reformers. "When the devil was sick," etc.

Will New York Republicans give Mr. CONKLING the gratification of a re-election, which he now comes to claim at their hands?

They will not do so, if they have any regard for the future of the party. The lines are narrowly drawn, and its future depends upon the success of Mr. GARFIELD's Administration. The President is entitled to the confidence and the united support of the party, until, by some great blunder or gross unfaithfulness, he has forfeited it. He is its acknowledged standard-bearer. He has accepted a troublesome and trying position, with the understanding that he is to have cordial support. Of course, there must be room for Senators and others in public place to act on their convictions of their duty to the country at large. If Mr. CONKLING goes back to Washington, it will be to wage a bitter personal war upon the President, and in this way to do his best for the defeat and ruin of the party.

They will not do so, if they have any regard for the public opinion of their own State. Nothing has been so surprising as the solid support that the New York Republicans have given to Mr. GARFIELD since Mr. CONKLING began this quarrel. The voters take exactly the view of party fealty we have just expressed. They decline to follow their most loved and trusted leader in his new warfare. And since the news of his resignation reached Albany, there has been a substantial unanimity in the expression of popular opinion from all parts of the State. The people ask that Mr. CONKLING and Mr. PLATT be left at home. The danger is that the politicians may not prove "wise to discern the signs of the times." The day for boss rule in the Republican party is over. Chicago warned it of its coming fate. Pennsylvania dug its grave. Albany may "dance at its wake."

They will not do so, if they have any regard for the dignity of the State. Mr. CONKLING has made them partners in the illimitable ridicule his act has evoked. His huge vanity exposes them to just such humiliation in the future. Like all the baser passions, vanity grows rapidly in its power over a man, eating out the substance of his manhood, and enslaving his better will. In Mr. CONKLING it has become a monomania. This is the most aggravated outbreak thus far. Others will follow. The man will learn nothing from the roughness of his present experience. He would merely go back to Washington confirmed in all the bad mental and moral habits which have been ruining his character and destroying his influence for good.

THE DISHONESTY OF STALWARTISM.

THE reproach most commonly levelled against the Republican of conscience—one that will appear, no doubt, to sting the Independent Democrat, if such an addition shall ever be made to our political species,—is that he sometimes "kicks." Such a reproach, pointed and barbed with the appearance of truth, is not without its power to wound, for no honorable man denies that if he enters an organization to accomplish certain results or maintain certain principles, he is bound to yield his own independence of opinion and action, in some degree, to those of the majority of his party. If he finds himself sometimes at a point where he must choose between a defiance of caucus or convention, upon the one hand, and a violation of his own sincere convictions upon the other, he is obliged, however plain the duty may be of "kicking" and not yielding, to justify his cause by an honest view of the circumstances that surround the particular case. The law of party is general; departures from it must go, as they arise, into the courts

of conscience and judgment, for special adjudication. He who kicks may have a good cause or an insufficient one; he may, in truth, have halted at a point where to go farther would have been a march to dishonor, or he may have used the cover of conscience and principle for the real purpose of distracting the common purpose and breaking up the unity of effort that is essential to success.

This, however, is a branch of the subject already well discussed. What we propose to more particularly comment upon here, is the fact that in the Republican organization no set of men are as habitually unfaithful to its claims upon them, as the very "Stalwarts" who so loudly profess never to flinch from supporting whatever bears the party label. These gentry, who are most quick to brand every man of independent convictions and conscientious rules of action, with the stamp of party treason, whenever they find him parting company with themselves, are, in fact, least to be trusted, even for obedience to the outward letter of party law and discipline. Trite as any discussion of the general subject may be, this branch of it is fresh at the present moment, because we have fresh evidence of this truth. The long letter which presented in the columns of the New York *Herald* the envenomed reproaches of Senator CONKLING against the President, was in itself the most conclusive and overwhelming statement of the broad vein of dishonesty that underlies Stalwartism. Easily and indisputably the chief of the Stalwarts, Mr. CONKLING presents himself in this letter as a monumental figure in the rank of mercenary politicians. He describes himself in every paragraph of the long recital as one who fights for pay only. Poorly as we may think of that citizen whose partisanship is so strenuous, or moral and mental insight so limited, as never to question the infallibility of party endorsement, we cannot even think so well of him who proclaims to the country that he did not enter the campaign in behalf of the regularly and fairly selected candidate until he had received the promise of special reward. The one man may be a blind and unreasoning partisan; but the other is a calculating political bravo.

As to this feature of the case, it does not need that we should consider at all the probable truth or falsity of Mr. CONKLING's allegations as to General GARFIELD's pledges. That is another matter altogether, and to be discussed separately. So far as the display of his own motives and methods is concerned, the letter-writer has made the circle of testimony complete. Whether General GARFIELD, under the pressure of a great contest, gave him more than those just and reasonable assurances of fair consideration, in case of success, to which a prominent and able leader of the party was entitled, or whether he did not, has no bearing upon the simple and all too significant showing that the Senator chooses to make of his own unfaithfulness to the party organization.

Let us look a moment at the facts of the 1880 campaign, and at the figure which Mr. CONKLING now makes in their midst, under the light thrown upon him by his own torch. At the beginning, the plan to nominate General GRANT for a third term by the united votes of New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois, added to those of the Solid South, was formed by Senator CONKLING and two others. This plan, objectionable as it was *per se*, became additionally wrong and outrageous in a little time, because it appeared that, if made successful at all, it must be by driving headlong over the mangled body of nearly the whole Republican party of the North. Solid delegations from the three great States could not be had, except by the most cruel and relentless use of the bosses' whips; and when they should be had, the very use of them to coerce and overbear the free and honest delegations from the other Northern States constituted a second political crime which equalled the bad proportions of the first. Such was the scheme, however, in which Mr. CONKLING was the great manager. Senator CAMERON and General LOGAN bent to his purpose; it was the New York Stalwart who was the overshadowing boss in this scandalous proceeding.

Necessarily, it was part of the plan, not merely to nominate General GRANT, but to elect him. The furious and unscrupulous use of boss power in the party to get control of the Convention was not simply that there might be a theatrical display at Chicago—a dress parade of a majority of delegates. The nomination was the preliminary step; the election was to follow. Senator CONKLING meant not only to capture the Convention, but to drive the party! The whip that cracked about the ears of delegates was to be flourished over the shoulders of Republican voters. Hard as it might be for conscientious men to support a candidate who, aside from all other debatable questions, had been nominated by the union of boss power with the emasculate Republicanism of the South, they would have been called upon by every consideration of party fealty, and adjured by all the precepts of party honor, to vote the ticket and prevent the success of the common enemy. Such, we say, was Mr. CONKLING's plan. He stood ready to demand the most extreme application of party rule—to require of every Republican the completest surrender of personal feeling and conviction. But he failed in the first step. The Convention, as it proved, was not captured. General GRANT was not nominated. By the free will of a large majority of its delegates, General GARFIELD was made the candidate. And then it was that Senator CONKLING proved his own unfaithfulness to the very code of party rules which he had, until then, contended for so strenuously, and which, if he had got his candidate, he would have insisted upon with still greater vehemence. Instead of joining at once in the work of electing the candidate, as was his party duty, he sulked in his tent. The campaign knew him not. If he was in it at all, it was secretly as a destroyer of confidence and unity, a sneerer at the nominee for whom he should have thrown up his cap. Then came the Conference at New York; and here the letter to the *Herald* tells, without such an intention, but none the less completely, how cold, how selfish, how unfaithful to the letter, as well as the spirit, of party comity, was the boss of the bosses,—the chief of the Stalwarts,—the leader of that political class whose professed rule it is to stop at nothing when the party banner waves ahead. It appears from the letter that he entered the campaign under the attractions which—he says—General GARFIELD held out to him, and that until these were presented he did not enter it at all. He came late, and he came because he was promised pay. The inference, by his own story, is irresistible, that he would have let the enemy triumph, rather than have marched under the Republican banner, unless General GARFIELD had made pledges of repaying him for his party work by a liberal bestowal of "patronage."

Now this is the light in which the chief Stalwart chooses to appear. He has been, doubtless, unconscious how completely he has exposed himself; his eagerness to persuade the public that the President had broken a personal engagement, was too great to give him the opportunity of perceiving that he was presenting his own conduct in an aspect so discreditable. There is, it is true, a class of men who proclaim their party zeal with the loudest, and who demand of their associates in the organization the greatest abandonment of all individual right of judgment, but whose party work can be had, in reality, only at the purchase of private advantage, and who cease from it the moment this pay fails; but it had been supposed, no doubt, that one who led the Stalwart legions, and whose simple word of command has been to them higher authority than that of all other political commanders and leaders, would have placed himself on more honorable ground than that occupied by the vendible politician, who works only for personal reward. To this class, it seems, however, Mr. CONKLING must be assigned. That he is so, proves what we set out to show,—that none in the ranks of the Republican organization are more unfaithful to it than the very men who brand as "kickers" those Republicans who find themselves forced at times to stand fast, rather than go forward to dishonor.

PUBLIC OPINION.

THE RESIGNATIONS OF THE NEW YORK SENATORS.

NOT more than a half-dozen newspapers of recognized influence are undertaking to defend the resignations of the New York Senators. The New York *Herald* lends itself to Mr. Conkling's support on the ground that, from the beginning of his administration, the President has sought to promote "the ascendancy of Mr. Blaine." The *Herald* charges the President with "a violation of that wise Constitutional provision, inherited from the English, which makes it an offence for the Executive to interfere with the sovereign, sacred duty of an independent Senator, whose sole duty is to his conscience and his God;" and, referring to the resignations, exclaims:—"There is a Roman dignity about the course of Senators Conkling and Platt which reflects honor upon the State and the Senate, as well as upon the men who are brave enough to show the world that they are not only Senators, but gentlemen." Another of the half-dozen defenders—the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*,—says:—"There are two men in the country, at least, with whom self-respect is more than office; two men who will not sit silently and see their State antagonized, the enemies of their party rewarded, and continue to retain their seats in a body which accepts and swallows the enforced indignity." In this way the New York *Commercial-Advertiser*, the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* and the Indianapolis *Journal* also attempt to defend Mr. Conkling's course.

Another class of Republican newspapers, which generally reflect conservative opinions, express regret that "such a novel step should be taken." In the words of the New York *Journal of Commerce*, "It is to be deplored that certain Republicans sought to coerce the President into managing public affairs for the benefit of a clique of politicians." The notably conservative Boston *Advertiser* says that Mr. Conkling's act "will be condemned by most Republicans," and the Boston *Journal* thinks that "Mr. Conkling has made a mistake." The San Francisco *Bulletin* argues:—"Conkling wanted to control the appointments, and, failing, retires. He antagonized the Administration, and a break was inevitable. The full strength of his case is that Robertson was offensive to him on personal grounds. The better sentiment of the Republican party is with the President." Many other journals in like manner administer mild rebuke.

But the most general characterization of the act is that it was "childish." The Cincinnati *Gazette* says:—"Mr. Conkling's resignation is a sensational act of the shallowest kind; as it stands, it is a childish piece of sensationalism." "On the whole, we are inclined to think," says the Boston *Herald*, "that it is a move inspired by Mr. Conkling's bad temper, and that he has not very carefully weighed the consequences of his foolish and egotistical act." The Providence (R. I.) *Press* exclaims:—"Why have these two men taken this remarkable step? Simply because one of them—Conkling,—cannot have his own way, and because the other—Platt,—feels bound to obey his colleague rather than stand at his post and do the duty he was chosen to perform." The comment of the New York *Evening Post* is:—"The Senators have resigned in a pet, because they have not been allowed to have their way; the act is contemptible in its childishness." "In his whole career," says the Cleveland *Herald*, "Conkling has played by turns the part of a bully and of a spoiled child. He and his friends, speaking for him, have endeavored to make capital of his very petulance; and, in fault of compelling recognition by overbearing insolence, or of winning it by whining, it has been his wont to sulk in a corner, waiting to be coaxed, patted on the head and begged to come back and be good."

While many journals thus denounce the resignations as childish, several others speak of them as absurd. The New York *Tribune* refers to the matter as "an opera-bouffe performance," in which "our Senators have made themselves ridiculous;" and the New York *Times* says: "In politics, as in art, a great climax demands a fitting prelude. An ignoble dilemma does not lend itself readily to a heroic solution; a petty struggle over patronage and place cannot be appropriately waged with weapons which ought to be held in reserve for contests which have a continent for their theatre and a nation for spectators. As the curtain falls on the carefully-poised figures of Messrs. Conkling and Platt casting their Senatorial robes from them and appealing to the arbitrament of the power which makes Senators and Presidents, there is audible only the multitudinous echo of the puzzled query: 'What does it all mean?' The American people have a keen and ready sympathy for the heroic element in politics. They have an equally quick perception of the mock heroic."

This alternate tone of serious condemnation and ridicule is found in all sections of the country. An analysis of opinion in such a representative State as Connecticut, shows that Mr. Conkling's step is frequently laughed at and generally denounced. The Hartford (Conn.) *Courant* says that "the whole country will smile at the attitude of the New York Senator." The New Haven (Conn.) *Palladium* says that

"Conkling cannot be vindicated, because there is no ground for vindication." The Bridgeport (Conn.) *Standard* mentions Mr. Conkling as "a man concerned over small things;" the Norwich (Conn.) *Bulletin* regards his position as "unenviable;" and the Waterbury (Conn.) *American* adds: "Conkling is wrong, persistently and unpardonably wrong, and the country expresses its conviction of this with almost complete unanimity."

There is difference of opinion as to whether Mr. Conkling will be re-elected to the Senate. That he expected re-election immediately, is assumed by such papers as the Boston *Herald*, the New York *Evening Post*, the New York *Tribune*, the Milwaukee (Wis.) *Republican*, and the Chicago *Tribune*, all of which say that "re-election would not be vindication," nor aid him in the least in his fight against the President. The Brooklyn *Times* is confident that "both Conkling and Platt will be retired permanently;" the Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle* believes that "when Mr. Conkling counted upon immediate return, he counted without his host;" and other journals in New York State appeal to the members of the Legislature to "end his political career at this most favorable turn." The New York *Staats Zeitung* expresses the belief that Mr. Conkling will be "unable to make his machine work;" and the Buffalo *Express* and Albany *Journal* doubt his ability to stem the current of opposition.

OUR MEXICAN RELATIONS.

Evidence that many Western and Southwestern communities are deeply interested in our Mexican relations, is afforded by the frequent discussion of Mexican topics in the newspapers of those sections. The New Orleans *Times* thinks that "the Mexican question bids fair to be an exceedingly important one." "It will prove a spur to statesmanship and individual cupidity," adds that journal; "and both of these agencies will minister to our local growth. The South does not propose to be a mere bridge for Northern enterprise. The more the North seeks to do with Mexico, and the more Mexico is awakened from her sloth, the better for our section, which must profit by the international flow of commerce." The Galveston *News* and other papers in Texas likewise argue that the recent promises of development in Mexican industries "have placed the land of the Montezumas in a new light;" while the New Orleans *Democrat* complains that the Chicago dailies "have been doing all in their power to prevent the opening of trade with our neighboring republic." One of the Chicago papers to which reference is made—the *Tribune*,—is of the opinion that the "opening up of Mexico is not worth the trouble," and that there exists "an undying hostility between the people of Texas and their neighbors beyond the Rio Grande." To these assertions the *Democrat* replies that "we are much more friendly now than ever before; and when our financial and trade interests shall be blended, there is no reason why the United States should not be on as amicable a footing with our neighbor on the South—Mexico,—as with our neighbor on the North—Canada."

In their comments upon General Grant's visit to the city of Mexico, some of the Western journals look beyond the commercial side of the problem, and seek to answer the question whether annexation will not ultimately be the result of the proposed railway improvements. The Leavenworth (Kan.) *Times* reads a lecture to certain sensational papers that gave currency to rumors of future filibustering expeditions, and says that what both Americans and enlightened Mexicans desire to see, is the growth of trade between the two countries. The Nashville (Tenn.) *American* credits General Grant with "the ability to see his true field and enter upon the arena where he can perform his greatest work and erect his most enduring monument."

The Milwaukee (Wis.) *Republican*, the Salt Lake (Utah,) *Tribune*, the New Orleans *Picayune* and the Kansas City (Mo.) *Times* all intimate that the railroad development points to what they term the "Americanization" of Mexico. As the *Republican* expresses it: "There is no telling what complications will arise through the existence of a large amount of property of citizens of the United States in Mexico—especially railroad property. If any laws are passed by the Mexican Government affecting it, there will be demands for intervention. The danger cannot be very clearly outlined; but the mere suggestion is sufficient." "With the building of a great system of railroads in Mexico," says the Salt Lake *Tribune*, "the emigration of thousands of Americans to that country is absolutely certain. When two races come together, the stronger, sooner or later, assumes control; and this always has been and always will be the case. Either Mexico will become a part of the United States, or it will become Americanized and pass under the control of men from this country." The New Orleans *Picayune* concludes: "When the millions and tens of millions of money are drawn out of this country to help pay for the proposed improvements, the Administration which favors the schemes will doubtless find a powerful party arrayed against it. The United States Government will be called upon to protect its citizens in their contracts and preserve their property from destruction, and conquest very likely will follow."

THE WILLOW.

AN EASTERN LEGEND.

[Of the legends which cluster around the Crucifixion, perhaps the most familiar is the tale of "The Wandering Jew;" but there are many others. The tradition which suggested the following sonnet, is akin to the one which derives the red breast of the robin from a drop of blood falling on it when the bird sought to withdraw one of the crown of thorns; and it is not unlike the other legend that the aspen had never shivered until its wood was taken to make the cross.]

Lofty and tall, unbending and upright,
Beside a spring, there stood a willow tree,
Its young leaves rippling like the verdant sea,
Before the breeze and in the morning light.

The rabble ran towards Golgotha's height;
And walking in the midst of them were three;
And two were thieves, and one was He
Who was to die for men in all men's sight.

A soldier broke a willow branch to urge
Them on, and smote Him with a willow thong,
As up the hill the slow procession crept.

Then,—when it saw its branches used to scourge
The Man who bore His cross amid the throng,—
The guilty willow bowed its head and wept.

J. B. M.

THE AGONY COLUMN OF THE LONDON "TIMES."

IT was an excellent idea that moved Miss Alice Clay to the collection and publication of the most curious advertisements which appeared in the second column of the first page of the London *Times*, between 1800 and 1880, the compilation ceasing then, probably, through a laudable desire to spare the feelings of the people now living who may have had a deep personal interest in some of the "personals" of more recent dates. For it should be said that the "agony column" of the English journal is much more dignified, earnest and interesting, than the "personal" column of the average American newspaper. And it is further characterized by more eccentricity. No mortal man can write as funnily with intention as the stupid man who sets out to be grave or poetical, and the "personal" advertisement concocted for the sake of amusement falls far behind the "agony" item prepared in all seriousness by an advertiser whose brain was a little touched—say, on the subject of eggs, decimals and Bismarck's foreign policy.

It must be said that four-score years ago the advertiser was more stately and eloquent, than concise. For instance, here is a card from the *Times* of December 18, 1800: "If the lady who a gentleman handed into her carriage from Covent Garden Theatre, on Wednesday, the third of this month, will oblige the advertiser with a line to Z. Z., Spring Garden Coffee House, saying if married or single, she will quiet the mind of a young nobleman, who has tried, but in vain, to find the lady. The carriage was ordered to Bond Street. The lady may depend on honor and secrecy. Nothing but the most honorable interview is intended. The lady was in mourning, and sufficiently clothed to distinguish her for possessing every virtue and charm that man could desire in a female that he would make choice of for a wife. Deception will be detected, as the lady's person can never be forgot." That seems long-winded to people of this age of telegrams and postal cards; but its earnestness and honesty can hardly be questioned. Did the young nobleman meet the lady in mourning, and was she single, and did he make choice of her for a wife, and did she possess all the virtues and charms he thought he saw in her? Who knows? But as to some other loves revealed in the "agony column," there is no such pleasant doubt. Thus, four times in July, 1850, was this advertisement published: "The One-Winged Dove must die, unless the Crane returns to be a shield against her enemies." No answer was returned till the 23d and 26th of November, when these cards appeared, suggesting a whole tragedy: "Somerset, S. B.—The Mate of the Dove must take wing from England forever, unless a material change takes place.—J. B." "Kent, J. B.—The Mate of the Dove bids a final farewell, adieu, to the British Isles, although such a resolution cannot be accomplished without poignant grief." A tragedy of another sort is indicated in this (November 7, 1816): "Would Philip like to hear of his mother's death?" or this (May 29, 1850): "To A . . . —If humanity has not entirely fled from your breast, return, oh, return, ere it is too late, to the heart-broken, distracted wife you have forsaken,—ere the expression of those soft eyes that won you be lost in the bewildered stare of insanity,—ere they may gaze on you and know you not; write, tell her, oh, tell her, where you are, that she may follow you,—her own, her all,—and die. See her once more." Or here is another (July 15-16, 1851): "William, thou wilt go to sea—thou shalt go; but oh, return, and first receive the blessings of a heart-broken father, of a heart-broken mother! Oh, my son, William, my son, my son William! Would God I had died for thee! oh, William, my son, my son!" Per contra (October 2, 1851): "The Minstrel Boy," "dressed in a rusty black surtout

coat, common cloth waistcoat, trowsers marked with ink, and an old Caen hat, is urged to return to his disconsolate friends. All will be forgiven and Charlie will give up the front room." At the same time (October-November, 1851), appeared a touching series of advertisements, addressed to a lady who had left her husband and children, and who was urged repeatedly to return, and seems to have made appointments but never to have kept them, renewing his hopes day after day, only to dash them.

There is apparently a love story under these dispatches of May 28-30, 1850: "A. W.—The dog Wolf is dead. The experiment has fully succeeded. The Bear mourns. *Fidus vale amicus.*" "A. W.—The Wolf is not dead, but has been dangerously ill. Letters are intercepted. I trust no one. Break not your pledge. Communicate personally. B . . . ts." Another curious story of separated lovers and Argus-eyed guardians is told in a series of cards, April 12-June 24, 1856, where a lady advertised thrice for her lover, believing him to be ill, and then received an answer directing her to advertise again and give her initials. But she warily suspected a fraud and announced her suspicions, while simultaneously the lover corroborated them by repudiating the reply, and arranging for a safe correspondence. "Do this at once," he said; "grief and anxiety are rapidly doing their work. My idol is indeed a rare combination of tenderness, talent and every virtue. Love and admiration still contend, represented now by two sweet cherubs."

There are agony advertisements in all the languages—French, (and, as a rule, very bad French,) German, Italian, Spanish, Latin, Greek. There are scores of them in cipher, more or less easy to read. Thus (Oct. 28, 1870,) there is a communication beginning: "E rave ramap eh efkvc devh qn cqzv. wabhav," which with considerable difficulty has been deciphered as follows: "Very vexed at every part of your letter. Why not take interest in your appearance? Heiress be—. Have more trust. Shall always remain as usual yours only." The reply, four days later, further bears out the theory that the advertisers had a marriage in view. "On prow and near game. Party scrofulous but got the brass Parker!! Family very soft and come from Leeds. Make enquiries. Trust is broken reed. Ready wanted to swagger withal. Help Jones usually."

Of a gayer sort are such "personals" as these: May 10, 1870. "Woolloomooloo. Shout!" June 21. "Woolloomooloo. Shout rapidly and royally. Varmint all vanished. Impetuous Popsey impetuous." Dec. 18-21-23, 1869. "Curly Feather—Wet or dry, must I never see you more? Disconsolate umbrella." Dec. 30. "Curly Feather cannot tell." June 1, 1843. "A Newfoundland dog has teeth." May 28, 1851. "Door-mat to-night." March 20, 1852. "Door-mat and Beans to-night." June 23, 1852. "I am an ass. A letter is sent to your P. O., directed to any bird's name." Oct. 6, 1855. "J. B. R. The monkey is home. Where is the man of Ross? G. G." Dec. 6, 1856. "Each villa on the Bosphorus looks a screen new painted, or a pretty opera scene. Don Juan R. B." Nov. 11, 1858. "Standlynch, 1811, the comet. Paris, E. Ct., 1858, the Comet!" April 22, 1859. "Cocagee!" Oct. 8, 1859. K—Pott. Sploce! Lak! The mutability!" Sept. 6, 1861. "Lorelei—The Anthropophagous didn't gobble the partridges." Sept. 10, 1861. "S. to L., the 8 R. and W. Charles Urquhardt Newport Tingley has not suffered from the Eels!" Dec. 6, 1866. "Penny Land to Will. Paper, pockey, hanky hi? Would you not like to see little Gussie again?" Jan. 12, 1867. "Fat Oxen! Starving people! The Fat Oxen are gone from their glass palace, and are eaten by the rich; the starving people remain in their overcrowded fever dens, and are being eaten by disease. Fat Oxen! Starving People!"

A remarkable series of "agony" advertisements,—probably the most singular that has appeared during the century, began in 1851, and appeared continually till 1857; then, after an intermission, was resumed and continued till 1870. The correspondent was a Mr. E. J. Wilson, of Ennis, Ireland, who advertised under some fifty different names, such as "Rouge et Noir," "Indigo Blue," "To the Equator," "Decimals to Cheops," "Double Fin," "Spurs and Skirts," "Honest Alexis," "My Dearest Alice," "X. Gamins X," etc. His numerous appeals in the "agony" column had reference now to the loss of his fortune, and now to the loss of his daughter Alice, who was taken from him by some one of evil intent. The first of these appeared February 15, 1851: "To D.—Thanks for your communication. As the clothes are ready, I am ready to wear them. Always the same; the bar of iron. Pray communicate.—E. W." These advertisements in 1859 show his troubles:—January 10.—"To Contre-coup.—I am puzzled what to do with my daughter when I get her. I had the guarantee of a London school-mistress of twenty-three years' standing, and yet she was not safe. You know what happened to my money and papers in the heart of the city of London." February 7.—"To Contre-coup.—To terminate this disgraceful business, I had made arrangements to place my daughter at school at Boxmoor, Herts; but I cannot get her. Now, what am I to do? The money that I relied on for my old age alienated, my child lost forever, myself in the most miserable part of the land of misery, with a miserable salary." Again, February 14.—"The author of the decimal system at Her Majesty's customs, which pours pure gold every day into the coffers of the nation, earning a miserable

subsistence in the worst part of Paddy's land." April 16.—A reward of £200 is offered for the return of his daughter, Alice Jane Wilson. May 9.—"I have never seen any of my money from the day I nobly signed it away, and I did not see my child for five years; and yet I respected the laws of humanity, and you see the return. I have lost my daughter a second time." "£10,000 sterling?" says another advertisement; "Bah, I claim £250,000 on eggs alone, to say nothing of that costly national antique (Long R. Joey), and on decimals £100,000." The last advertisements, published in July, 1870, gave no indication as to whether or not the tide of misfortune had turned for him at last.

LITERATURE.

FAITH AND FREEDOM.

THE Reverend Stephen Augustus Brooke has already made numerous and fast friends in America by his excellent biography of Frederick W. Robertson, his "Theology in the English Poets," and "Primer of English Literature," as well as by his published volumes of sermons. He has long been known as an ultra-liberal churchman and one of the most eloquent and popular of English pulpit orators. In 1872 he was made a chaplain to the Queen, and in June, 1876, became minister of Bedford Chapel, Bloomsbury. The section of the Church with which he was identified has its most widely known representative in Dean Stanley, and includes such men as the Rev. Brooke Lambert, who dubbed the Thirty-nine Articles the "forty stripes save one;" Dr. Edwin A. Abbott, who has handled the New Testament very freely in his "Philochristus," and has renounced his belief in the physical miracles of Christ; and the Reverend J. M. Capes, author of that curious book, "What Can Really Be Known About God?" In September last, Mr. Brooke formally announced his secession from the Establishment, it being erroneously reported at the time that he would thereafter identify himself with the Unitarian denomination. The present volume contains some twenty of his sermons, delivered during the last fifteen years, concluding with his letter to the congregation of Bedford Chapel, at his withdrawal, and his famous sermon,—"Salt without Savor," preached at that time, and so severely dealt with by adverse critics. The discourses, which are upon such subjects as "Faith," "The Childhood of God," "The Intellectual Development of Christ," "The Changed Aspect of Christian Theology," "Biblical Criticism," "Liberty" and "Immortality," afford an interesting revelation of their author's doctrinal development, and their value is doubled by the appreciative and eloquent study of the author which serves as an introduction to the book.

So early as the publication of the biography of Robertson, Mr. Brooke had shown that he was thoroughly alive to the difficulty of maintaining true individuality under such a system as that of the Church of England. "The great disadvantage," he wrote, "of a Church like ours,—with fixed traditions, with a fixed system of operations, with a theological education which is exceeding conservative, with a manner of looking at general principles from a fixed clerical point of view, with a bias to shelter and encourage certain definite modes of thinking,—is that under its government clergymen tend to become all of one pattern." In his sermons of 1871, on the Voysey Judgment, published in 1871, Mr. Brooke made as good a defence of the Broad Church position as could be made, and showed himself to be more or less at variance with the doctrines of the Church upon every subject which he discussed, though he had not as yet given up his belief in miracles. A national Church, he contended, must tolerate and comprehend, on an equal footing, religious views as various and conflicting as the political views represented in Parliament,—must permit within its boundaries every phase of religious thought possible within certain limits, and its creeds and articles were to be viewed, like Acts of Parliament, as entirely provisional and fluctuating in their character, merely as regulative and always subject to revision, opposition to them being no more construed as disloyalty than attempts to reform legislation. If such views could not be recognized by the Church, then there was but one course for the liberal clergy. "They cannot in the interest of truth abide with her whose features are no longer those of a mother." It was a foregone conclusion that a man holding such views must sooner or later quit the Establishment, and when last year Mr. Brooke announced his secession, the real cause for surprise should have been, not the act, but the lateness of the period at which it was performed.

"Mr. Brooke," says the admirable introduction to which we have already alluded, "opposes the ideas of Christ to the ideas of Comte, to Secularism and whatever attempts to do the work of religion in the world to-day, not as excluding them, or as antagonistic to their real motives, but as genuinely including these as factors in itself. Of Comte's 'Religion of Humanity,' he says, 'I am unable to see how it differs, so far as it asserts a principle, from the great Christian idea. Everything it says about Humanity, and our duties to Humanity, seems to me to be implicitly contained in Christ's teaching, and to be no more than an expansion of the original Christian idea of a divine Man in whom all the race is contained, and who is ideally the race.' Mr. Brooke does not join in the cry which has been raised against the religion of Positivism, but commends its careful study, and recognizes the force with which it has brought home to us many great conceptions which the false system of the Church had brought us into danger of forgetting. 'It would be untrue in a Christian teacher,' he says, 'to abuse a system which has so strongly emphasized the duty of self-sacrifice among men and among nations.' 'But it would be equally untrue,' he continues, 'if I did not say that the refusal to consider the existence of a personal God and the immortality of man will, in the end, make that religion die of starvation.'"

At the time of his secession last year, Mr. Brooke was attacked with singular vehemence by some of the conservative journals, which insisted that it was bad taste on his part to attack so ostentatiously the body of which he was so long a member, and declared that his system was "a spiritual jelly-fish,"—a system of formless, gratuitous, self-complacent optimism, reducible to a *petitio principii* far more obvious and far less excusable than those which are objected to by Roman Catholics and Calvinists respectively as to the infallibility of the Church and the infallibility of the Bible. The secret of this animosity was to be found in Mr. Brooke's declaration that the theory of the Church is an aristocratic theory, and has ministered to that imperialistic conception of God which in theology has done as much harm as despotism or caste system of any kind has done to society. "Politically," said Mr. Brooke, "the theory is mixed up with the old aristocratic system, which has perished, or is perishing so rapidly, the very essence of which is in opposition to all the living and moving forms of society." Here is to be found the secret of the unkind and unjust attacks to which he has been exposed in England. Their injustice will appear to those who take the trouble to read this volume, and especially the letter to the congregation of Bedford Chapel, and the sermon, "Salt without Savor," with which it concludes. It was his inability to confess the miracle of the Incarnation, on which stands the form of doctrine to which the Church of England has committed itself as a building upon its foundation, which forced him out of its communion. "I do not," he wrote, "leave the Church to become a mere Theist. I believe, though the person of Christ is no longer miraculous to me, though I cannot consider him an absolute God, yet that God has specially revealed himself through Christ; that the highest religion of mankind is founded on his life and revelation; that the spirit of his life is the life and salvation of men, and that he, himself, is the Head Representative of Mankind,—Jesus Christ our Lord."

His inability to believe that miracles were credible, was not the sole reason for Mr. Brooke's departure from the Church of England; he left that body because he had come to disapprove of its very existence as an ecclesiastical organization, especially as connected with the State, and also of its existence in relation to politics, theology and religion. The Church, he says, "has systematized exclusion, and supported caste in religion—has forced the whole body of the dissenters from its forms to suffer under a religious and social stigma, which is scarcely now beginning to be removed." The standard of worthiness in the theory of the Church is not spiritual goodness, but union with itself, and though the fault of the theory is not the fault of its members, the fault condemns the theory. A further objection is found in the fact that the system of the English Church is based on the authority of a creed which embodies and crystallizes past religious thought, and makes it still more rigid in articles; or upon the infallible authority of the Bible, or upon the infallible authority of the Divine Spirit secluded and confined within the limits of the Church itself. "The Bible," he says, in a fine passage, "the Bible has spoken, the Church has pronounced its decree. It is the part of the laity only to believe and to obey. The inevitable tendency of this system and its claims is to make both preacher and hearer the conventional servants, not of a living word, but of a literal system,—bones in a skeleton, not members of a living body, slaves, either of a hierarchy or of a book, functionaries and listeners who do not know what belongs to them, who cannot move except in chains—and none the less chains for their ponderous covering. Authority of this kind, faithfully followed and faithfully believed in, disarticulates, to a believer, in the end, the backbone of the intellect and of the spirit, and hangs lead upon the wings of the religious imagination, binds the soul away from spiritual freedom into the prison of the past, frequently reduces the conscience to silence, and still more frequently sacrifices the reason upon the altar of ecclesiastical theology." On the question of the greatest of all religious conceptions,—the idea of a universal Church,—Mr. Brooke felt that the theory of the Anglican Church was not only inadequate, but contradictory; and, lastly, he found no rest for his foot among any of the parties in the Church, and, least of all, among the Liberal Church party. Compromise, he holds, has already reached its limits, and the whole of religion is suffering from the state of compromise. "The High Church and the Low Church do not compromise at all; they deliberately oppose those who deny miracles, and those who support the doctrines of the Broad Church. Every one understands their position. But the liberal party in the Church, not opposing those who deny the miracles or attack doctrines, compromise the matter by putting aside the question, speaking of Christianity as a beautiful moral system which is not really founded upon miracles or upon dogmas, but lives in the life of the heart. But the question cannot be put aside, and the method of the liberal party in the Church cannot be pushed further with advantage to the religious life of the nation. To say nothing about miracles when the question is leaping into the mind of every one, to say simply that Christianity does not rest upon them, is to act as men say the ostrich acts. There is the question, vivid, full-grown, shouting like Achilles in the trench, and the Trojans smiling within the walls, and saying that it is not a question at all!"

To American readers this book will be valuable and interesting, not only because of its literary merit, but as casting much light upon one of the most interesting and important problems of the time in the mother-country,—the future of the Establishment. They will rise from its perusal with a warm feeling of esteem and affection for its author, as, to quote the words of his editor, "a genuine man,—a man who thinks and is no Athanasian parrot, whose religion is no indifferent eclecticism, but who does believe with all his heart that Christ stands so far before all other masters that he stands alone; that his religion, like Homer's poetry, and in a sense far deeper, is as fresh to-day as at the beginning; and that in the spread of his spirit and the appropriation of his ideas in their true purport, the liberal application of his mind to the shifting conditions of society, lie the surest progress, the highest happiness, and the best hope of mankind." G. H. Ellis. Boston, 1881.

FREEMAN'S HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY.—The reader's first feeling on opening these volumes ("The Historical Geography of Europe."—By Edward A. Freeman,) is one of surprise that no one should previously have attempted such a work. His second will be one of thankfulness, for no one could be so well-fitted for the important task as Mr. Freeman. Publishers' notices do not often err on the side of reticence, but certainly the announcement does not say too much which says of his work: "His various writings have done more to mould the prevalent scope and range of historical treatment, as applied to the events of past ages, than those of any other living writer. He is unequalled alike in his forcible grasp of the field of history as a one and undivided whole, and in the minute researches and scientific accuracy that he applies to the elucidation of special events. The present work may be considered as the key to all his previous writings, gathering into one focus the rays of light thrown by them on separate portions of the historic page." The vigor of his style is admitted by all who have read any of his controversial articles, and those who have perused his "Short History of the Norman Conquest," can testify to his remarkable power of condensation and clear statement, gifts not incompatible, at least in his case, with a grave, masculine eloquence befitting his subject.

The book is not a history, but a statement of the almost numberless changes of rule and dominion which have taken place on every portion of the European Continent and its Colonial Empire since the earliest history, while estimating their causes and the mutual relation of each event. "Historical geography," says Mr. Freeman, in his introductory chapter, "differs from physical geography, from ethnology and comparative philology, though of all these studies it makes much use. It is with the political divisions that it has to deal in the first place, being only occupied with the physical nature of the country and its inhabitants so far as they have influenced those political divisions." An excellent distinction is also made between geographical and political names,—as Britain and Spain, meaning an island and a peninsula almost as well marked out by nature as that island; and England, Scotland, Wales,—Castile, Aragon, Portugal, the names of States whose boundaries have varied greatly at different times.

The geographical aspect of the chief lands of Europe has had its direct effect on their history,—two insular and peninsular regions north and south, with a great unbroken mass of land between them, the three great southern peninsulas being cut off from the central mass by a nearly unbroken mountain chain. On two of these three peninsulas, their destinies and their relations to the rest of the world were impressed by their geographical position. Greece, though lying nearest to Asia, is in this sense the most European of European countries, being fuller of the islands, promontories and inland seas characteristic of Europe. On the other hand, Italy is the central land of the Mediterranean region; hence, while it is only natural that Greece should be the part of Europe in which all that is most distinctively European first grew up and influenced other lands, it is to Italy that we should look for the one land or city of dominion. This ingenious theory, though at first sight it might be thought fanciful, is borne out by recorded history. Greece first became civilized and played a part in history; but it was Italy and its central city, Rome, which first obtained the dominion over the civilized world of early times,—that is to say, the countries surrounding the Mediterranean. Rome, too, having begun by the subjugation of Italy, made her first steps in conquest by putting down the central power on the southern coast,—Carthage.

But it is less of ancient geography than of modern that the reader will care to hear. Few studies can be more interesting than those of Central Europe from 980 to the present day, illustrating the gradual growth of Brandenburg into ragged Prussia, and of Prussia into a symmetrical State, drawing the other German territories to her, and pushing Austria away to the south and east; or showing the sudden boiling over of France at the beginning of this century, till it reached from the Baltic to Montenegro, and included among its dependencies the Duchy of Warsaw. When speaking of the reconstruction of Germany at the downfall of Napoleon, Mr. Freeman acutely remarks two points that too often escape the attention of the student,—the greater States, with the exception of Saxony, became greater, and of the most characteristic features of the old Empire, one passed away forever and the other was sadly weakened—no ecclesiastical principality was revived, and four only of the free cities entered the Confederation as independent Commonwealths. Germany had again reached a certain measure of national unity which could hardly fail to become closer, the Zollverein being one of the most powerful influences in promoting, or, at least, preparing for, the closer union of our own day. Mr. Freeman, in commenting on the changes which took place in 1866, does not fail to note the anomalous position of the little principality of Lichtenstein, which was absolutely overlooked, and neither included in the Confederation nor incorporated with anything else. It might be added that this little principality has, in strict law, been at war with Prussia ever since 1866, not having been included in the treaty of peace then signed. The new German Empire, it is justly observed, is in no sense a continuation or a restoration of the Holy Roman Empire, which fell sixty-four years before its creation,—that agglomeration of which Boerne said that it was neither holy, nor Roman, nor an empire. As compared with the Germany of the ninth century, it has been cut short to the north-west, south-west and south-east, has grown somewhat to the north, and has extended prodigiously to the north-east. Its ruling State is called after an extinct heathen people, of whose name, perhaps, Charlemagne never heard, and its capital stands in what for a long time after his day was a Slavonic land. Indeed, Germany, with Prussia as its chief State, and its National Assembly's place of meeting removed from Frankfort to Berlin, presents one of the strangest changes that historical geography can show. It has, at some distant period, to gather to itself the German provinces of Austria; but it is not likely to recognize the application of similar natural principles to its Danish duchies in the North and the Slavonic province of Posen.

The evolution of Italy, as it might be called, has been quite as interesting, if not quite so important. After the fall of Napoleon, when the Ligurian, and Parthenopean, and Tiberine Republics, its Kingdom of Etruria, and all the other creations of the republican and imperial periods vanished, it returned almost absolutely to the old state of things. It remained a geographical expression, with its States practically dependent on a foreign power,—Austria,—but in no way bound together. The main principle of settlement was the restoration of the dethroned princes, while of the Commonwealths only little San Marino was allowed to live on. It differed little, geographically considered, from the Italy of 1748; but it had received the spirit and impulse of union, though it was neither Milan, Florence, nor Rome, that was to grow into the new Italy, but the House of Savoy, whose beginnings were Burgundian and whose chief territories had long lain on the Burgundian side of the Alps. The modern revival, however, does not include all the Italian populations, as Savoy and Nice have been ceded to France, and Trieste, Trent, Istria and Aquileia still belong to Austro-Hungary. It is not the least curious fact connected with the history of the House of Savoy, that the district to which it owes its name should have been alienated, as the price of the first notable extension of its territory, in 1859. And how few people, when speaking of the war of 1859, remember that, so far from contemplating Italian unity, that war was intended to divide Italy into four kingdoms, a new realm of Mid-Italy being laid out for Prince Napoleon. It is thus, too, that the Emperor William gets credit for the creation of the German Empire, whereas Bismarck pushed him, neck and heels, into the war of 1866, for the headship of Germany, when, if left to himself, he would have compromised with Austria for part of the duchies.

The anomalous nature of the Austrian power naturally claims attention. There is nothing else exactly like it, either in the past or present. It is a power altogether lacking in national unity, made up of States differing in origin, in language, in all wherein States differ from each other, not co-extensive with any nation, but taking in parts of many nations; there is not even a dominant nation surrounded by subject nations. Nor is there even a federal tie. By an odd turning about of meaning, Austria, once really the Eastern land—Oesterreich,—of Germany, has become in truth the Western land of the new arrangement. "A power like this," says Mr. Freeman, "which rests on no natural basis, but which has been simply patched together during a space of six hundred years by this and that grant, this and that marriage, this and that treaty, is surely an anachronism on the face of modern Europe. Germany and Italy are nations as well as powers. Austria is simply a name without a meaning."

France, since she was beaten back from her great scheme of dominion in different parts of the world, has led the way in a kind of conquest and colonization without an exact parallel in modern times. In occupying Algeria, she has made a conquest in a land on the shores of the great European sea, in a land which formed part of the Empire of Constantine, Justinian and Heraclius, and won back from Islam a land which was once part of Latin-speaking Christendom. France has been the first European power to spread her dominion over a long range of the Southern Mediterranean shore, points only on which had been occupied by Spain, by Portugal, or by England. European civilization there, Mr. Freeman thinks, can never be anything but a mere fringe; but may not that portion of Africa yet come to play an important part in the history of the civilized world, if Tunis is annexed to Algeria, a great inland sea is created by turning the Mediterranean into the salt marshes and low-lying sands of the north, and the trans-Saharan railway is completed? Scribner & Welford, New York.

BLESSED SAINT CERTAINTY.—A story by the author of "His Majesty Myself."—No Name Series.—"Ocklawahaw was the only trading-post of an Indian reservation in the West. It was built along the crumbling edge of a bluff overhanging a great river, which toiled slowly past, so heavily freighted was it with red soil from the regions through which it flowed. The town consisted of many scores of log-cabins scattered about like dice, with frame houses upon the highest points here and there,—some of them painted red, with green shutters,—in which lived the leading men." Into this settlement rode one day the father of the hero of the story, an adventurer, a genius, an unprincipled schemer. He lays his plans to marry Mitchabuna, the daughter of the rich old half-breed miser, John Ross. Mitchabuna had a complexion of pomegranate-brown and crimson, white teeth and red lips. She shot with bow and rifle, swam in the river, and "rode at a gallop the uncurried, unshod mustangs, dispensing with saddle or blanket, her black hair flying upon the wind." When old Ross dies, the marriage takes place. Ross Urwoldt, the fruit of this marriage, inherits the dark and splendid passions and wild, defiant energy of his parents. He is the central figure on the canvass, powerfully painted—a Western *Hamlet* or *Manfred*. While at college, he grapples with the old enigma of God and the soul. In a paroxysm of passionate fury, he rushes upon the Isis-veil of Nature, determined to penetrate the great mystery; as he falls back, wounded and bleeding from the vain attempt, a stony despair and atheism take possession of his heart; like a tiger foiled in its first leap, he strives no more. He tells his college classmate that he then and there dispatched with one blow his belief in his own soul and in God, to illustrate which he tells a story. He was hunting one day, when an antlered stag passed quite near him: "As it passed, and in sheer devilry, never thinking I could do it, I sprang for its antlers from behind, for I was all muscle and sinew and foolhardiness those days. To my own astonishment, I got a grip upon the base of the antlers with my right hand, and I held on until I could get another with my left. I was dragged along dreadfully until the buck stumbled and fell, when I contrived to get myself astride its neck, locking my feet together underneath. It was the grandest ride I ever took; an unbroken mustang I knew all about; but that was tame to this. If I was to hear any one else tell the story, I would believe it no more than you are believing me now; but it is a fact. I do not know how I contrived to keep my hold

as we tore along through the undergrowth, almost dragged off by the vines a dozen times. But I tied my legs in a tighter knot about its throat, until I succeeded in forcing its nose down at last among the leaves and mud. Then I got my knife out with my left hand, for I have learned to use either, while I held on with my right, and struck through a white spot between the shoulders, to the heart. After I had done it, I lay, my legs still about its neck and deluged with blood, for I don't know how long, and almost as dead as it was. I would not try to do it again, but was glad I was fool enough to attempt it then. This illustrates what I was saying" (about the soul and God). This Byronic youth is released from his Castle of Despair by Love, in the person of Persis Paige. His nearly successful attempt to commit suicide on her account, breaks down the last barrier between them. In requited love he finds one blessed certainty in life, and is thereby led to believe in the last great certainty, *i. e.*, that the heart of the universe is love. There is a great deal of novel-padding of the conventional sort in the book, but there is also strong and rich local coloring. The pictures of border life and scenery are evidently studies from actual experience, and as powerful and spirited as those of Bret Harte. The infusion of wild life in the nature of the hero gives to his character something of the piquant charm of Donatello. To confront such a character with the problems of modern life, afforded opportunity for fine and subtle psychological work. The author's treatment is, however, almost wholly objective, and the work bears marks of having been too hastily produced. Roberts Brothers, Boston. 1881. Pp. 445.

MADemoiselle Bismarck.—A novel by Henri Rochefort, translated by Virginia Champlin.—To say that a novel is authorially and locally Parisian, is about equivalent to saying that it is impure. "Mlle. Bismarck" is a novel decidedly not free from slight taint in this respect, while, at the same time, it is by no means decidedly bad. All our interest centres in the wonderful scheming of the heroine, Mlle. Alibert. A thoroughly Parisian woman, with the vivacity and social ambition which have always made French women the real rulers in politics and society, Mlle. Alibert devotes her life to the single purpose of reaching by matrimony a dazzling social height, far above her humble station as daughter of the old professor of philosophy in the Charlemagne College. The saying is that if you tell an Englishman he lies, he will knock you down; but say to a Frenchman, "*Vous mentez*," and he will smile and shrug his shoulders. Mlle. Alibert is a sublimely unscrupulous liar. The thrilling interest we take in her schemes is derived from the imminent and momentary danger that the colossal structure of deceptions and mendacities which she builds up, will crumble about her ears and ruin her forever. After having ingeniously obtained *entrée* to the *salon* of a Mme. Manoir, our daring little Bismarck actually lays her plans to capture Talazac, the great Republican lion of the day. Determined to be married in any case, she first secures the undying devotion of a blue-eyed *bonhomme*, whom she despises on account of his humble station, but upon whom she can fall back in case of failure of her brilliant schemes. It would be too long a tale to recount how she pretends to save Talazac from arrest, works upon his sympathies, forges telegrams and *billets-doux*, and actually succeeds in so duping her victim that he announces her to the world as his *fiancée*, when, by good luck, the whole scheme is revealed to him. The last card played by the unconquerable little *bourgeoise* proves her ruin. She arranges with a lighterman to sink a flat sand-boat a foot under water, just by the *Quai Voltaire*. She meets Talazac on the bridge by night, to return his letters; reproaches and protestations ensue; to prove her love, she suddenly jumps over the bridge at the spot where the sand-boat should have been; but, to her unspeakable horror, she sinks to the bottom, and, after one cry of "help!" is gone forever. An accident had dislodged the sand-boat during the day. Talazac is frantic, believing now that she really loved him, goes into mourning for six months, and spends hours before the portrait of the only woman in "his collection" who ever loved him. It is pretty evident that Talazac in this fiction is Gambetta, and the political animus of Rochefort is very marked in his treatment of the character. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. 1881.

WOMAN'S HANDIWORK IN MODERN HOMES.—By Constance Cary Harrison.—To any one who knows what it is to love a book, to take delight in type, and press-work, and paper, to find pleasure in the mechanical production and in the external adornment of a volume, it is a pleasure to come across a book like this of Mrs. Harrison's, which the Scribners have sent forth to the world in a garb as fitting as it is tasteful. Mrs. Harrison's book is an essay on household art and its manifold varieties and variations. It is printed in an appropriate old style type and on a tough paper not too blankly white, and it is bound with unusual appropriateness in linen, stamped in rich red with the outline of a door, from a rod across which falls a heavy hanging, and it is on the bands of this that the title is seemingly embroidered in gold. This, of course, is the design of the side; and the back is as neat and pretty. Nor does the adornment of the volume stop with the outside. Within are half a hundred illustrations in black and white,—single sketches in embroidery, designs and panels for needle-work, sketches of lace, old and new, drawings of odd bits of pottery, pictures of tea-screens, and banner-screens and folding-screens, and pictorial suggestions for hangings and mantel-pieces and door-panels. But best of all, and besides these sketches in the text, are five colored plates, printed with unusual delicacy and skill. These plates reproduce the interior of a morning-room designed and decorated by Mr. Louis C. Tiffany; a door-way and drapery, also designed by him; a group of faience and porcelain, including jars painted by Charles Volkmar and John Bennett; a portrait plaque, painted by Miss Rosina Emmett—a likeness of her little sister; and a sketch for a *portière*, by Mr. Samuel Colman. It is needless to dwell upon the advantages of colored illustrations to any work on household decorations; practice is always better than preaching; and here Mrs. Harrison's advice is pointed and made perfect by Mr. Tiffany's example.

Of the text, we may write more calmly. Mrs. Harrison has added another to the list of imported and domestic books on household decoration; and hers is, perhaps, as

good as any. She has the advantage over many writers on the subject, in that she knows what she is writing about. She knows not only what is good in art and good in taste, but also what chances to be fashionable just now among the more cultivated fashionable people of the metropolis. This personal qualification it is which gives her book its special value. In the first part, in which she considers embroidery in detail and with much very useful advice, and in the second part, called "Brush and Pigment," and devoted to painting on china, silk, plush, velvet, linen, tapestry, paper, mirrors, cards, canvas, wood, etc., the author's personal advantages cannot make themselves felt as plainly as in the third and final part, "Modern Homes." Here Mrs. Harrison is at home; she knows what has been done in decoration in New York of late; she knows the ways, and manners, and customs, and doings, of the cultivated society of the metropolis, and describes incidentally these ways and doings, and explains the many devices the wealthy and wise make use of in getting the most pleasure possible out of the sense of sight. Especially to be recommended to those less fortunate in social opportunities, are the chapter on the use of Japanese fans, umbrellas and lanterns, in extemporaneous decorations, and the final chapters, "In Tea-Cup Times" and "Decorations for the Dinner-Table."

Mrs. Harrison's style is a little too full of French phrases to be pleasant. And we may as well express our surprise at seeing a writer so well-informed miscall drawing on linen "etching on linen" (page 126). Etching is eating with an acid; and if one were really to etch on linen, the value of the linen afterward can be guessed now. In all matters of art, precision in the use of terms is essential. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 1881. 235 pp., with index.

CHRIST AND MODERN THOUGHT.—Under this rather non-descriptive title, are collected the Boston Monday Lectures for 1880-81. The introductory lecture is by Joseph Cook. His lecture was not, however, delivered in Boston, but in the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London, before the Congregational Union. This volume, as a whole, makes a pretty weak showing, as contrasted with Mr. Cook's volumes. For, with all the blatant rhetoric and pugilistic valor of "the champion of orthodoxy," he generally manages to give his hearers a good many interesting facts in his lectures. But the only fact-lecture in this series is that of Rev. Samuel W. Dike, on "Divorce in New England," which is a really valuable paper.

Mr. Dike thinks divorce is a portentous evil, the cause of increased licentiousness. He quotes a great many authorities and statistics in support of his position. The ratio of divorces to marriages is one to fifteen in Massachusetts, and one to eight in Connecticut, a number which clearly gives room for suspicion of laxity on the part of the officers of the law. Roberts Brothers, Boston. 1881. Pp. 315.

AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

MISS FRANCES POWER COBBE'S "Duties of Women," of which George H. Ellis of Boston has issued a third edition, is being translated into Italian by the Marchesa di Montezemola, daughter of a former syndic of Florence; and Miss Cobbe writes that she thinks "Italian women only need a little prompting and encouragement to develop into fine specimens of humanity."

Messrs. Little, Brown & Co. will shortly publish the late Professor Benjamin Peirce's "Ideality in the Physical Sciences," a volume containing the substance of six lectures which caused no little sensation when delivered at the Lowell Institute in Boston, and the Peabody Institute in Baltimore.

Messrs. D. Lathrop & Co., Boston, are about to publish a new edition of Colonel Conwell's "Life of Bayard Taylor," hitherto sold by subscription only.

R. Worthington of New York brings out "The Life, Labors and Writings of Lorenzo Dow."

Mr. J. Mortimer Murphy, whose first book of travel and adventure in the far West was such a decided success, despite certain unpleasant eccentricities of style, is at work on four new volumes,— "Wing Shooting Beyond the Rocky Mountains," "The Training and Management of Hounds," "Angling Sketches in the West and Southwest," and "Reminiscences of Life on the Border."

Mr. John Langdon Sibley's second volume of "Biographical Sketches of Graduates of Harvard University," is announced to appear before the next Commencement. It covers the period 1660-7.

Mr. Frederick May Holland has published with Putnam of New York a small work describing, explaining and commenting upon that poem by Robert Browning which Douglas Jerrold admired so much, though he was not quite clear as to whether "Sordello" was a man or a castle.

The Rossettis are both to contribute volumes of poetry to an English-reading public sadly in want of fresh, good poetry. Macmillan will publish Christian's new book of poems this summer, and Dante Gabriel's new volume of "Ballads and Sonnets" is in press.

Mr. Richard Jeffries, in his "Wood Magic," soon to be published by the Cassells, is said to have gone back to that delightful perfection of style which characterized his first books, as "The Game-Keeper at Home," but which flagged and fell short somewhat in some of his later works, as if the author, one of the most loving and accomplished of observers since Gilbert White of Selborne, were feeling the inevitable result of over-production.

The veteran Mr. S. C. Hall, now in his eighty-first year, has published a series of 220 short poems, entitled "Rhymes in Council: Aphorisms Versified." He bequeaths them as a legacy to his kind, the result of knowledge based on experience and matured thought, "the proceeds of a long life."

Mr. John Payne has doubtless by this time issued his translation of the poems of Villon,—a reprint, slightly pruned, of the edition published by the Villon Society; but containing a long introduction and many notes of interest and value.

Macmillan & Co. are to publish the obituary of Lord Beaconsfield that appeared in the London *Standard*, with extracts from the very interesting letters on his birth, education, early life, etc., which were subsequently published in that journal. Lord Rowton will be occupied a long time in his preliminary survey of his late chief's papers, but it is believed that the first volume of the "Memoirs" or "Life" will not be long delayed. He was not intimate with the few survivors of the earlier generation of political leaders, as Gladstone, Bright and Villiers, and it was not until the resignation of Lord Derby that he entered into confidential and responsible relations with the Queen, so that there is no dangerous or awkward ground to be covered in the earlier volume.

A biography of the late William Beach Lawrence, of Rhode Island, will, it is said, be prepared by his daughter, Mrs. Wheeler.

Sampson, Low & Co. have published in England the revised and enlarged edition of the late James T. Fields,—"Yesterdays with Authors."

A sale, in which American bibliophiles will take unusual interest, is thus announced in the last number of the London *Athenæum*:—"The first portion of Mr. Henry Stevens' Historical Collections is to be dispersed in July, and the catalogue forms a large octavo of 236 pages, with copious notes by Mr. Stevens. There are 1,625 titles of rare books and MSS., rather miscellaneous in character, but relating largely to England and her American colonies. Almost all the large collections of voyages and travels, with many of the separate editions of the early navigators, are represented. There are half-a-dozen autograph poems of Burns, many early English and American ballads, and a Chaucer of 1532. Among the MSS. of special interest, are the original manuscript records of the trustees in London for the establishment of the colony of Georgia for more than five years, and also the original manuscript records of the colony of Virginia for six years during the first part of the career of George Washington, 1752-1757, with eighteen of Washington's earliest autograph letters to Governor Dinwiddie. But what will especially attract attention is Lot 1,269—Mr. Stevens' collection of Franklin manuscripts and books, described in thirty large pages of brevier type as one lot, with the upset price of 7,000*l*. This bibliography of Franklin will probably surprise many by its extent and value, as the Museum contains only a few of 204 works mentioned." It would be safe to predict, from the determination and lavish liberality with which American book-lovers are buying in Europe, either for their own collections or the endowment of public libraries, that the cream of this "Historical Collection" will come across the Atlantic.

The London *Daily News* of the 5th inst. pays an earnest if somewhat elephantine compliment to American authors when it says: "American literature has now become so far English that it has supplied us with more household words than the literature of any other country, except France. Mr. Lowell's 'Biglow Papers' have lent us some—notably the skeptical criticism of John P. Robinson on the culture of Palestine, and the warning as to the necessity of early rising when one is attempting to circumvent the absolute. From a writer much less frivolous than he is commonly thought to be,—Mark Twain,—we have derived not only by-words but opportunities for that inextinguishable laughter which seems to refresh and renew the whole system. If Mark Twain had written nothing but the account of his purchase of the celebrated Mexican plug, and his account of how he once increased the circulation of an agricultural paper, he would have made his mark among the humorists who have used the English language. Mr. Bret Harte has supplied us with the immortal economical reflections of Bill Nye, and has formulated the doubt which we all feel in presence of the Mongolian race,—the doubt whether Aryan man is not played out, has not had his innings, and is on the point of following the Toltecs into the graves of vanished peoples. But these are only the first names that occur. Our fiction owes its most refined and elaborate pages to Mr. James and Mr. Howells; our anthropology is under a heavy debt to Mr. Bancroft and Mr. Morgan; our criticism is sharpened by contact with that of half a dozen brilliant writers, and perhaps it is only in poetry that we still venture to think, if we may use an appropriate expression, 'we have the inner track.' The American Caucasians are certainly not played out, and we may perhaps expect from them the poet who is to succeed our foremost living masters."

Octave Feuillet's new novel, "*L'Histoire d'une Parisienne*," has been published, and for cleverness, thrilling interest and beauty of style will rank with the very best of his works.

Ernest Daudet has returned to a field in which he has been a successful and profitable laborer, and published an important historical book, "The Royalist Conspiracies in the South under the Revolution." It is learned from private sources that M. Daudet is at work on a history of the Presidency of Marshal MacMahon, which will form a valuable companion-book to Jules Simon's "*Gouvernement de M. Thiers*."

George Sand's letters, some of which have been published in the *Nouvelle Revue*, are soon to appear, complete, in book form.

The "*Mémoires de M. Claude*," chief of the detective service under the Second Empire, are promised, but in advance very grave doubts as to their historical accuracy may be expressed.

M. Ernest Rénan contemplates another visit to the Holy Land and Sinai before writing his history of the Jews up to the second exile. The last volume of his "Origins of Christianity" is in type, and he is busy with the index.

Coquelin the Elder, the well known actor of the *Comédie Française*, has just printed a volume, "*Molière et Le Misanthrope*," in which he reviews the opinions that have at various times been expressed concerning the characters in that famous play, and then gives his personal appreciation and ideas.

Dr. Gerland of Cassel has published a volume containing the correspondence of Leibnitz and von Huyghens with Denis Papin, accompanied by a biography of Papin, and many hitherto unpublished documents.

The Pope, who is known to be an accomplished Latinist, has just printed for private circulation a small volume of Latin verses, exquisitely printed and bound, copies of which have been presented to the Cardinals and a select circle of friends in Rome.

The evil practices which have done so much mischief in the Vittorio Emanuele Library seem to be spreading in the Eternal City. A valuable manuscript written by Boccaccio, and containing Boethius's famous tract, "*De Consolatione*," has been lately stolen from the Vatican Library, and sold to the managers of another library in Rome. The Pope has ordered a searching investigation.

Blackwood has published "The Transvaal of To-day," by Alfred Aylward, the erratic Irishman of whom so much has been heard during the recent Boer war.

Three promising new books of travel are announced for immediate publication by Douglas of Edinburgh,—Capt. P. D. Trotter's "Mission to the Court of Morocco in 1880;" Capt. H. C. St. John's "Notes and Sketches from the Wild Coasts of Nippon," and Lieutenant Robertson's "Kuram, Kabul and Kandahar."

The second volume of Dr. Cunningham Geikie's "Hours with the Bible"—from Moses to Judas,—has appeared.

Smith, Elder & Co. have in press a new novel by the author of "Molly Bawn," "Phyllis," "Airy Fairy Lilian," etc., with the title of "Mrs. Geoffrey."

Lord William Pitt Lennox's "Plays, Players and Play-Houses at Home and Abroad" will disgust the critical reader by its innumerable slips and absurdities, especially when dealing with French affairs. Two interesting specimens of French of the school of Stratford-atte-bowe are presented in these titles—"Le Faux Honnête Homme" and "La Maladie sans Maladie."

A volume is in the press entitled "Punishments in the Olden Times," by Mr. William Andrews, honorary secretary of the Hull Literary Club. The book will contain an historical account of the ducking-stool, brank, pillory, stocks, drunkard's elock, whipping-post, etc.

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. will shortly publish the text of the Greek Testament, upon which Canon Westcott and Professor Hart have been working for the better part of thirty years. It will be followed very shortly by a uniform volume containing introduction and appendix.

DRIFT.

—A Cincinnati lawyer has charged a client \$30,000 for collecting a \$53,000 debt. A Montreal dealer in tomb-stones has been arrested for stealing tomb-stones from the cemetery, chiselling out the inscriptions, and selling them again. At Melbourne, Australia, three men have been arrested for stealing a steamship, changing her name, and selling her for \$35,000. In the vicinity of Paris, two bricklayers have come to grief for stealing a house, taking it down, and re-erecting it on another site. They had rented it from the owner, and his stupefaction when he went to dun them for the rent, and found that the house had vanished, may be fancied.

—A judge at Paterson, N. J., gave, unconsciously, a very pregnant lecture on the liquor question the other day, when, after charging the Grand Jury that "the sale of intoxicating liquors is a great promotive of riotous conduct and crimes of a higher grade," he continued: "The Court will now receive applications for licenses."

—In this era of municipal reform, the spirited conduct of Mayor Besson, of Hoboken, should not be overlooked. In his annual message, he bluntly described that city's police force as mainly made up of "duffers." "Old age, the poor blind, the deaf, the obese, the confirmed invalid, are all represented and draw pay with the promptest regularity." The chief detective "looks like a tramp," and all the members "busy themselves with party politics, brawling and fighting and disgracing themselves." In a later communication, Mayor Besson points out a case where two thieves stole twenty-five yards of cloth, and the detective who recovered the property kept it as his reward.

—The latest manifestation of Chinese heathenism is reported from San Francisco, where Wong Tze Fung, a Celestial Mr. Bergh, paid \$15 for a live turtle he saw lying on its back on the sidewalk before a restaurant, and had it dropped into the sea.

—The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Quebec has found a new danger to religion and morality. Bales of old newspapers are sold in that city for wrapping paper, and many of these journals contain articles that are far from being orthodox; hence, he solemnly warns merchants not to become the agents for disseminating such literature, and parents to see that when goods wrapped in "these dangerous writings" reach their houses, the wrappers are prevented from reaching their children, "and corrupting their innocence and faith."

—A curious, and, at the same time, reasonable article, on "Bigness in Pictures," appears in a recent English art journal, in which the author maintains that "bigness," although in one sense an admirable quality in an artist's work, is a very prejudicial one in another. He points out that the Corporation of Liverpool had been compelled at their art exhibition to hang three hundred fewer pictures than in the previous year, owing to the largeness of the pictures, and have intimated that in future, as a general rule, they will give the preference to paintings of a moderate size. He concludes:—"America, which takes our engravings by thousands, buys hardly any pictures of us—none in comparison with the quantity it takes from Paris; France, Belgium, Germany and Italy purchase absolutely none, but, on the contrary, deluge us with their own productions, for which, being content with a much lower price than our artists ask, they find a very fair sale. The moral of all this appears to be that it behooves artists very seriously to consider whether they are not sowing the seeds of their own ruin by the continually increasing size of their pictures."

—Mr. Hubert Herkomer's "Aesthetic Posters" have been put forth in England. Mr. Herkomer has an idea of forming a guild of artists who will design street posters as part of their regular work.

—"M. X., Membre de l'Académie," was the striking signature which the servant of an Immortal left on the visitors' book during M. de Girardin's recent illness, just as if his learned master had called in person. Nor was that master the Duke of Audiffret-Pasquier, who announced his first candidature in a letter in which "Académie" was spelled with two 'c's'; and addressed his second notification to the "perpetual secretary," as if that official was of the female sex.

—A Parisian newspaper—*La France*—has an interesting department of "Dead People's Wit," in which are given the most famous or characteristic sayings of great men who have recently passed away. When Lord Beaconsfield died, *La France*, of course, had to give one of the great English politician's good things a place in the column of "*L'Esprit des Morts*;" and this was the sentiment chosen: "Then is the world mine oyster, which I with sword will open. Benjamin Disraeli, Lord Beaconsfield."

—Among curious vocations in life, very few have been more curious than that of an individual now said to be living in pedal ease near Baden. He was boot-stretcher to the late Archduke Franz Carl, the father of the present Emperor of Austria. For many years, it was his only duty to wear his royal master's new boots before they were adopted by the owner; and for the comfort which his self-sacrifice secured for the Archduke, he is now in the enjoyment of a pension for life.

FINANCE.

NEW YORK, May 18, 1881.

THERE has been a variety of elements at work in the stock speculation during the past week. The varying force excited by the different influences has proportionately affected the daily current of prices, but in the main the market has moved upward. In the first place, there has been a steady increase of buying by the "outside" public; and a revival of the foreign demand for American securities is generally reported. It is only an indication of a conservative disposition on the part of the general public that there is no decided inclination to lose heads over what appears to be a resumed "bull" campaign, but rather to wait for or improve upon the usual reactions that attend a movement in the direction of higher prices. This outside demand, for the creation of which the clique holders of stocks had so long waited and watched,—expecting to prey later on,—has given a stamina to prices that has been natural, in place of the manipulative strength frequently imparted to prices during the last few weeks. In the second place, there has been a free realization of profits in many stocks by both professional traders and the people who have carried their holdings through the spring period of depression. Finally, the "bear" party has plucked up some fresh courage, and undoubtedly a good-sized "short" interest has been accumulated in the market during the past few days. While the usually active classes of stocks have not made any extravagant gains, there have been numerous instances where the prices of special stocks have surged upward, on the general tide of confidence, to figures representing a heavy improvement.

The best thing that can be said about the speculative situation, and the most substantial reason for expecting more of a "bull" than a "bear" market for a while to come, is that the general investing and speculative public is again buying stocks. It is useless to argue that prices are too high. It is a waste of words to recall the past

history of Wall Street's "booms" and breaks. It is idle to demonstrate that the earnings and the capitalizations of many companies represented on the stock-list are not justificatory of the apparent value of their stocks, as reflected in the official quotations at the Stock Exchange. The governing conditions of the situation are (1) the abundance of capital seeking profitable employment, and (2) the generally favorable appearance of financial things. The wealth of the country to-day is unprecedented. We have the same paper legal tender currency—unfortunate as this fact may be,—as we had years ago; we have the products of gold and silver from our mines, which constantly increase, and we have \$25,000,000 more foreign gold at this moment than we had at the corresponding time last year. No greater evidence of the plethora of money can be sought than that afforded by the extraordinary success of the Government in borrowing money, subject to the momentary call of the borrower, at 3½ per cent. All of the 6 per cent. bonds of 1881 practically have been continued at the reduced rate of interest, and there appears to be no doubt of the success of Secretary Windom's policy in refunding the 5's at 3½ per cent. As a most potent element in influencing the course of speculators and investors in stocks, we have not only the actual influence of the payments that will certainly be made of a portion of the 6's and 5's that are not continued,—large in its effect on the money market, though small in its relation to the aggregate of the debt that the Administration seeks to refund,—but of the practical evidence, afforded by the successful refunding operations of the Government, of the abundance of idle capital in the country. People with idle money are, by this state of affairs, naturally induced to enter the fields of speculation in the hopes of realizing speedily the profits that can only come but slowly in an assured Government investment. Railroad and other stocks that yield, at the present prices, only 5 or 6 per cent on the investment, afford to many minds not only the advantage of a larger interest rate than Government bonds yield, but the possibility of profits on a near advance in the premium at which they secure their securities.

The spirit of speculation seems to be abroad in the land. The end of the present movement is certain. Values cannot be carried forever onward toward the clouds; a check and a severe set-back to speculative figures are bound some day to come. But while the business of the country continues so substantially good, while its progress in development continues at so great a rate, and while, specifically, railroad earnings increase even over the splendid record of last year, and the tide of emigrant bone and muscle pours into the land, the speculative spirit is likely to be buoyant and to take "Excelsior" for its motto.

Last Thursday afternoon, Secretary Windom issued a call for all the outstanding coupon 5 per cents. amounting to \$128,067,600, at the same time giving the holders of the bonds the privilege of having them continued during the pleasure of the Government at 3½ per cent., providing application is made for that purpose before July 1. The most important feature of the call is embraced, however, in the following paragraph:

The Secretary also announces that, until the date mentioned, July 1, 1881, he will receive for continuance in like manner, subject to the like conditions, any of the uncalled five per cent. registered bonds of the Acts of July 14, 1870, and January 20, 1871, to an amount not exceeding \$250,000,000, the remainder of the loan being reserved with a view of its payment from the surplus revenues. Foreign holders of any of the five per cent. bonds above described may have them continued as above provided, upon the receipt of the bonds at the Government agency established for that purpose at the banking house of Messrs. Morton, Rose & Co., Bartholomew Lane, London, England.

Although there have been only five business days since the publication of the Secretary's call, holders of considerably more than one fourth of all the bonds that he offers to extend at

the reduced rate of interest, have signified their desire for such extension, and there seems to be no doubt that the whole amount will be heard from in a very short time. As the Secretary proposes to purchase about \$78,000,000 of the 5 per cents., there is an evident desire on the part of the holders of those bonds to forward their applications for continuance in time to secure the 3½ per cents., and thus avoid being compelled to accept cash for the face of their old 5's. Considering that the continued bonds are subject to redemption at any time, "at the pleasure of the Government," the readiness with which they are accepted becomes somewhat remarkable. It is an unmistakable evidence of the great abundance of capital in the American market, and of the confidence entertained by investors in the future growth and prosperity of the country. By the success of Mr. Windom's scheme, the highest rate of interest that the Government will hereafter be required to pay is 4½ per cent.

The weekly statement of the Associated Banks of this city grows more interesting from week to week. Both the total deposits and the specie are greater than at any previous time in the history of the banks, and the present amount of the loans was never exceeded, except in the reports for October 30th, and November 6th and 13th, 1880. The specie now amounts to \$76,887,700, an increase for the past week of over \$3,500,000, and, as compared with the corresponding week of last year, of over \$20,000,000. Although the deposits exceed, by \$55,740,000, the amount thus held a year ago, the increase in reserve, all of which is specie, is sufficient to leave the percentage of reserve to deposits a shade higher than it was then, the percentage now being 29.67. The surplus reserve, in excess of the amount required under the 25 per cent. rule, is now \$14,817,200. Another interesting feature of the statement issued last Saturday is the fact that the loans are less than one million dollars in excess of the deposits; in other words, the banks are loaning less than a million dollars of their own capital and surplus. The total reserve has reached \$94,000,000, or over \$33,000,000 more than the combined capitals of all the banks belonging to the Clearing House. The clearances last week amounted to more than a thousand million dollars, but they were \$66,000,000 less than for the preceding week.

During the early part of the week under review, foreign exchange advanced one cent, reaching a point at which it was possible to return gold to England without much loss, and creating some apprehension that the current might be turned in the opposite direction to that in which it has been steadily flowing most of the time since the beginning of the year. The advance in the rates of exchange was caused, undoubtedly, by the return of Government 6's and 5's, and by the falling off in the comparative value of our exports. The advance has, however, been checked, at least for the moment; and as the opinion prevails very generally that European capitalists are among the heavy purchasers of our railroad and other securities, confidence has been in a measure restored, and foreign exchange has since lost its early advance. Money on call continues to be freely offered at 4 and 3 per cent., and time loans are made at 4 and 5 per cent, when the collateral is satisfactory. Everything in financial circles indicates a continuation of an easy money market for some time to come.

The Philadelphia market has moved on in the even tenor of its way without developing any features of special importance. Philadelphia capitalists are largely interested in the Northern Pacific Railroad, and they have watched with much interest the movements made by Mr. Villard of New York to secure control of the Company. There is little doubt that a compromise has been agreed upon between Mr. Billings and Mr. Villard, by which the latter secures substantially all that he desired. Reading has been comparatively quiet, awaiting the decision of the the Court at Harrisburg. Prices generally have fluctuated within a narrower range, but in sympathy with the New York market, and the week closes quite dull.

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